



**Committee on  
Homeland Security Democrats**  
**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

<http://hsc-democrats.house.gov>

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## **House Homeland Security Committee Democrats Introduce Amendment to Improve Security at Our Nation's Ports of Entry**

WASHINGTON--House Homeland Security Committee Democrats today offered legislation that would strengthen the security at all of America's ports of entry against the entry of nuclear or radiological materials. Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI), Ranking Member of the Committee's Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack, introduced the amendment during today's open markup of H.R. 4312, "The "Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005."

The amendment would require the Department of Homeland Security to install radiation portal monitors at all ports of entry and would mandate that all cargo entering the country be screened for nuclear and radiological materials.

"Twenty million containers arrive at U.S ports of entry annually, but we have yet to fully deploy a comprehensive system to screen those containers for radiological or nuclear materials," said Rep. Langevin. "It is sound policy to strengthen national security by requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to install radiation portal monitors at U.S. border crossings, airports, and seaports. This amendment will speed up the installation process by authorizing funding to ensure deadlines are met and requiring the Department to report to Congress on the status of portal monitor installation."

"The Department has been deploying these machines for over three years, yet many of our ports of entry still do not have them, leaving the country vulnerable to the entry of a dirty bomb or other weapon of mass destruction," said Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS). "We must take steps to secure our borders from the nuclear terrorist threat now."

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